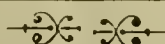


BAMPTON, NORTH DEVON

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REPORTS

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OF

Medical Officer of Health

And . . .

Sanitary Inspector . . .

FOR THE

. Year Ending

. . 31st December, 1910

JANUARY 30TH, 1911.



# Medical Officer of Health's Annual Report

For the Year 1910

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BAMPTON, NORTH DEVON,  
January 30th, 1911.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
BAMPTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting my Report since I have been Medical Officer of Health for your District.

During 1910 38 births and 21 deaths were registered in the district, giving an apparent increase of 17 in the population.

The birth-rate for the year is 23·63 per thousand of the population; this is below the average for the district, which for the last ten years is 26·10.

The death-rate for 1910 is 12·72; this is below the average for the district, which for the last ten years is 15·84.

Of the 21 deaths registered in 1910, two were due to phthisis, three to cancer, one to bronchitis, four to old age, one to accident, one to enteric fever, and nine to other causes.

AS REGARDS INFANTILE MORTALITY there were four deaths under one year, three from premature birth under one month, one under two months from marasmus (wasting); giving an infant mortality rate of 105·2 per thousand births. This is above the average, which for the past 10 years has been 85·3 in this district.

UNDER THE INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFICATION ACT one case was reported only, viz., Enteric Fever, which on investigation proved to have been brought into the district: it ended fatally. The premises were thoroughly disinfected, as were the bedding, clothing, and appurtenances.

PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE DISTRICT.—The length of the district from East to West is  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles; from North to South is  $2\frac{1}{4}$  miles; and the area 7,760 acres. The rock formation is chiefly carboniferous limestone, overlaid by Culm shales towards the south, with new red sandstone lying irregularly upon the Culm shales. In the north-west the Devonian rocks occur.

The town of Bampton is on gravel soil, situated on two streams, which unite close to the main street and join the river Exe about a mile from the town. The town is 350 feet above the sea-level, and lies in a valley. Dairy-farming is the principal occupation of the people. Limestone quarries are worked close to the town.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION is apparently sufficient for the population. No cases of overcrowding have been found.

WATER SUPPLY.—The town is supplied by a four-inch iron main, which conveys the water from a spring about 500 yards west of the town. During the recent heavy rainfall of the last seven months, some surface water found its way into the service tank; this has been remedied by drainage, and by covering the culvert with cement.

I have tested the water frequently, and have always found it of excellent quality. There is an ample supply of water for the requirements of the town; yet the higher parts of the town suffer somewhat from a diminished supply when water is being used extensively at the lower levels. This can be remedied by substituting a new six-inch main in place of the existing four-inch one.

Some parts of the town do not at present benefit by the existing supply from their altitude. It is hoped that means will be taken to remedy this in the near future.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.—At present the greater part of the sewage is carried into the streams. There seems every probability that the scheme proposed by the Sanitary

Inspector for dealing with the town sewage and the prevention of pollution of the river, is to be very soon carried out.

Many and great have been the difficulties with which the Council have to contend, and many special meetings have been held. It is hoped that a satisfactory decision will shortly be made, and the matter effectually dealt with. The cost of the scheme will be paid out of the rates.

Notwithstanding the very heavy autumnal rains of 1910, flooding of the houses or streets has not occurred.

SCAVENGING is carried out by the Council, the road scrapings and town refuse are taken to farm land at a distance.

DISINFECTION is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector. The Tiverton Rural District Council grant the use of their disinfecting apparatus by arrangement.

There is no Isolation Hospital.

WORKSHOPS.—There are 13 on the register, including three Bakehouses. These are duly inspected. They are clean, in good sanitary condition, and are well ventilated.

There are no outworkers.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—There are four, one registered within the last year. They have been frequently inspected, kept clean and whitewashed. Arrangements are being made for the removal of offal in covered receptacles.

DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS have been frequently inspected, and the bye-laws as to cleanliness have been enforced and carried out.

Milk is not sent away by rail from the district. Many of the dairy farmers send their milk to a butter factory in the district.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.—None.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.—None.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.—No action has been found necessary during the year.

NO CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS among Poor-law cases have been notified.

THE PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS have been inspected, found clean, and well ventilated. The school children have been examined by the Medical Inspector appointed in 1908.

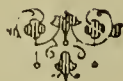
THE NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT has not been adopted in this district.

UNDER THE MIDWIVES ACT there are three nurses registered and practising in the district. I have examined their appliances and registers. There have been no cases of puerperal fever.

ACTS AND BYE-LAWS.—The Bye-laws made in 1892 are in force. Parts II. and III. of the Public Health Amendment Act of 1890 have been adopted.

The Sanitary Inspector has made frequent inspections, and has carried out his duties very satisfactorily.

Yours truly,  
 THOMAS W. WIDGER BOVEY,  
 Medical Officer of Health.



# Sanitary Officer's Annual Report

For the Year 1910

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TO THE BAMPTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my report for the past year.

**GENERAL HEALTH.**—The general health of the district has been good. Only one case of notifiable infectious disease has occurred during the year—viz., a case of enteric fever, which unhappily terminated fatally. No apparent cause could be assigned for the disease. A thorough disinfection was afterwards carried out.

**SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE WORKS.**—The scheme proposed by myself in order to deal with the town sewage and prevent the river pollution is still under your consideration. I trust that you will shortly arrive at a satisfactory decision so that the matter may be effectually dealt with during this year. New sections of sewer have been constructed in Mary-lane and Western-way. Various new house drains, closets, etc., have been constructed, and connections made with sewers.

**TOWN WATER SUPPLY.**—Samples have been taken at various times, and tested by the Medical Officer who certifies the supply as being of good quality.

It was found, however, that during heavy rains an infiltration of surface water took place just above the service tank, which while not affecting the organic purity of the supply, caused it to become somewhat turbid with suspended matter. This contamination was remedied by opening up on the old culvert and laying a drain to carry off the surface water, and also covering the culvert with cement concrete.



The higher parts of the town still suffer at times from shortage of supply, especially when there is a sharp pull at the lower levels.

The supply although ample for the requirements of the town, fails at a low elevation, consequently the four-inch main which was laid many years since, does not convey ("under such a small head") sufficient water to maintain the normal pressure in the distributing mains. This could be remedied to some extent by laying a new six-inch main in lieu of the existing four-inch; but as there are some parts of the town which are not commanded by the existing works, it would perhaps be advisable before so doing to consider a scheme for pumping water from the present tanks to a small tank which might be constructed above High-street. The whole of the town could then be well served.

HOUSE CONNECTIONS.—One  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch, and two  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch connections have been granted during the year.

NUISANCES, &c.—Various nuisances arising from defective drainage, pig-sties, dung heaps, &c., have been dealt with in a satisfactory manner.

COTTAGE ACCOMMODATION is fairly sufficient for the requirements of the district; there has been no overcrowding; cottages generally are kept fairly clean; and notices to whitewash, when given, have been complied with.

DAIRIES.—There are at present three registered for the sale of milk, the tenant at Lower Bowbier having given up the business. These dairies have been regularly inspected by the Medical Officer and myself, and we find them kept in a satisfactory manner. Various works, necessary to comply with the Regulations have been carried out, and others are in progress.

BAKEHOUSES.—There are three of these, none underground; they are kept clean and whitewashed frequently.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.—There are at present four, one of which has been registered during the past year. They have been regularly inspected; are kept clean, and whitewashed four times a year.

Notices have been served on the occupiers to provide covered receptacles for offal, dung, &c., these are being complied with.



WORKSHOPS & WORKPLACES.—These throughout are satisfactory; there is no overcrowding; ventilation and sanitary arrangements are good; whitewashing is carried out, when necessary. No outworkers are employed.

SCHOOLS.—These are clean, well ventilated, and sanitary; offices are satisfactory.

New lavatories for washing are contemplated at the National Schools.

SCAVENGING, REMOVAL OF HOUSE REFUSE, &c.—This has been carried out in a satisfactory manner.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT.—No action has been necessary during the year.

BUILDING PLANS.—Two plans for workshops for Mr. Geo. Davey, Back-street, have been submitted and approved.

FIRE BRIGADE.—The whole of the appliances are in good order, the engine having been recently renovated throughout. An additional hydrant has been fixed in Western-way. The Brigade have had their usual number of drills.

Yours Obediently,

ROBERT ELLIS.







